



THE BULLETIN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto, California
Transforming Ourselves, Each Other and the World

505 E. Charleston Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94306 www.uucpa.org; April 30, 2017

Sunday Morning

May 7

9:00 am Forum Fireside Room

Saudi Arabia as an ally?

Discussion led by Cecil Bridges.

The Forum is a drop-in public discussion – everyone welcomed.

9:30 and 11:00 am Service Main Hall

Time with Albert Schweitzer

Our service is devoted to the thoughts and words of Albert Schweitzer, distinguished in the fields of theology, philosophy, medicine, music, and most of all perhaps, as one of the moral giants of the twentieth century. Drew Oman, Miriam Pokharel-Wood and Brian Weller will provide the readings. Since Schweitzer was an authority on J. S. Bach, the choir will present special music from Bach.

Worship Leader: Brian Weller

Music: Broceliande — Margaret Davis, Kristoph Klover, Kris Yenney

May 14

9:00 am Forum Fireside Room

What are the implications of constant economic growth?

A group discussion.

The Forum is a drop-in public discussion – everyone welcomed.

9:30 and 11:00 am Service Main Hall

Flower Communion Sunday

For this intergenerational service, please bring a flower to exchange in our annual ritual. Dan will tell the story of how the Flower Celebration came to be, and we will take home a flower brought by someone else, like the inspiration and strength we receive from others. (Forgot a flower? Don't worry, there are always more than enough – bring yourself!)

Worship Leaders: Rev. Amy Zucker Morgenstern and Rev. Dan Harper

Worship Associate: Autumn Vandiver

Music: Veronika Agronov Dafoe, piano

Today

“A Conversation On The Civic Mission Of Our Schools” 12:30 to 2 pm;
Fireside Room. See page 8.

Sunday morning childcare for infants, toddlers and preschoolers will be available from
9 am to 12:15 pm in Rooms 7 & 8 and 2 & 3.

*Weaving the Web**

— Rev. Amy Zucker Morganstern

Two separate and painful events in the wider world of Unitarian Universalism occurred on the same day, March 30.

The Rev. Ron Robinson, a UU minister and founder of the Third Place Community in Turley, Oklahoma, was arrested on child pornography charges, and admitted guilt. This was a shock and a source of great sorrow, especially for those who admired and trusted him (and I am among those who held him in high esteem). All of the leadership responses I have seen have been powerful and appropriate. Reverend Robinson's fellowship (i.e., credential) has been suspended, as has his membership in the UU Ministers' Association. He was active in the UU Christian Fellowship and the Missional UU Church movement, and the leaders of both have spoken out with measured and caring words, and holding all involved in their concern, foremost the victims of these crimes. The organization I'm part of, UUs Ending Modern Slavery, set up a helpline (650-665-9891) for anyone whose traumas related to trafficking in children or other forms of abuse were re-awakened by this news.

And in an unrelated story, on the same day, UUA President Peter Morales resigned with three months left in his term. This startling event has its roots in a debate that had been unfolding over the previous several days, when recent hires cemented the complement of Regional Leads in the UUA as a 100% white, male team. Challenged by hundreds of people of color, ministers, religious educators, and others to live up to our stated commitment to diversity and empowerment, Rev. Morales agreed that we have a long way to go, but wrote intemperately about "hysteria" in the response, asserted that candidates of color are scarce, and suggested that leaders such as religious educators are rightly passed over in favor of ministers because the latter tend to have more management experience. These responses only added fuel to the fire, and he resigned effective April 1. Other, less precipitous resignations have followed, and the UUA Board has been working intensively to put an acting Chief Operations Officer in place (Rev. Sarah Lammert) and name an interim president until the election that will be held at the General Assembly in late June, as scheduled. I was moved to learn that our By Your Side Singers reached out to the UUA Board with a song, acknowledging their difficult and emotional work. To learn much more, I encourage you to visit uuworld.org.

I am happy to say that the conversation that was underway about hiring practices, and diversity and anti-racism in the UUA in general, has continued. Among other responses, Black Lives of Unitarian Universalists immediately proposed a White Supremacy Teach In, which Dan and I are enthusiastically joining; as of this writing, 270 congregations had committed to the teach in. We will devote April 30's service to this theme. In Sunday school at 9:30 am, grades K-5, which have been [continued]

focusing on ecology this spring, will learn about white supremacy and environmental racism.

Our religious movement, which has historically been mostly white and also overrepresented in the political and economic power structure, has been challenged before – from the inside, as now – to confront white supremacy: the elevation of white people over people of other races. Sometimes our response has been bold and prophetic; often, sadly, it has not, and we have settled back into the status quo. In this we are no different than the racially troubled nation in which we blossomed, but we should be. We can be. Working together, we will be. I am filled with trepidation, but also with hope that this moment of ferment will be a turning point. It can be if we make it so. I hope you will examine your own values and dreams and commit to moving in the direction of justice, freedom, and equality. One concrete action: come to the service, and bring your children to Religious Education, on April 30.

—*Blessings, Amy*

*This column first appeared in the April 16 *Bulletin*.

2017 Pacific Central District Assembly

The 2017 Pacific Central District Assembly will be held May 5-6 at Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church in Walnut Creek, CA.

The workshops for the Pacific Central District Assembly include the following:

- "Love Resisting" with Evan Junker, Executive Director of the Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministries of California
- "Restorative Strategies for Difficult Times" with Rev. Leslie Takahashi and religious educator Jim Lewis
- "The Blessings and Opportunities of Community Building in Turbulent Times" with Rev. Sarah Millspaugh and Lori Emison Clair of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Membership Professionals

You can find more information about these workshops at <http://www.pcduuu.org/events/district-assembly/workshops/>.

In addition to these workshops, there will be a candidates' forum featuring the three UUA presidential candidates, uplifting worship, and a chance to interact with other Unitarian Universalists across the district.

For more information see: www.pcduuu.org. On-site registration is not available for Children or Youth at this time. (Minors must have been registered by April 22). Adult registration is available on site for \$75.

Do You Like To Make Videos?

Would you like to make a video focused on UUCPA and what we value about it? We could use your help!

Email brooke_b@uucpa.org if you are interested!

The Book of Unknown Americans

This love story by Cristina Henríquez takes place in a run-down apartment building in Delaware, home to nine families who arrived in the States from various South and Central American countries, each looking to better the lives of the next generation. In alternating chapters, these men and women share stories of how their adopted country has left its mark on them, for better and worse...“It is a stunning novel of hopes and dreams, guilt and love – a book that offers a resonant new definition of what it means to be an American.” (Amazon) “Vivid ... Striking ... A ringing paean to love in general: to the love between man and wife, parent and child, outsider and newcomer, pilgrims and promised land.” (The Washington Post) Please join us on June 6 at noon in the Fireside Room to discuss this very timely novel.

Caring Network

BILL HILTON said he and his sister marched for Science in San Jose. JACK OWICKI was there taking pictures which he will post. AUDREY ERBES attended her high school reunion in Florida and danced every dance. MIRIAM asked for prayers for her quadriplegic husband who has end stage liver disease. NANCY NEFF is very pleased for the success of People's voice which goes to committee 6/14. DREW OMAN, who volunteers at an adult literacy program was very moved at the annual book launch – books written by learners. He encourages others to volunteer. FRED ZEISE was also at the Science March. His sad news was, after a fall, his 62 year old sister-in-law passed away. FRAN PERRY had abdominal surgery two weeks ago and will be in recovery for six weeks. She is walking slowly and smoothly. DIANE MEIER is in a job search. THIDA CORNES shared her joy noting that both her daughter KERENSA FU and JOHN KOSTKA turned 15 last week. KERENSA happily told her mother she was halfway to 30. JOSIE JARAT, mother of UUCPA MEMBER HEATHER CHEN, wished HEATHER “happy birthday” yesterday. ELEANOR LIN is hoping for good news today when they read the results from her dad’s biopsy. JERALYN MORAN is celebrating the 20th birthday of her youngest son, BEN, who is living in Michigan now

Enroll In eScrip



A painless way to contribute to the church is easy through eScrip. To learn more about how it works and to enroll, go to the UUCPA home page, <http://www.uucpa.org>, and click on the eScrip icon.

General Assembly 2017

June 21-25, New Orleans, LA

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to send voting delegates.

For more information see: <http://www.uua.org/ga>

Coping With Stress In Uncertain Times

Sunday, May 21; 12:30 to 2 pm; Fireside Room

Facilitator is Susan Owicki

Contact is Judy Lookabill (judy_l@uucpa.org)

Our political, social, and cultural institutions are changing. It's impossible to know how the changes will play out, and it's easy to fear the worst. In many ways, this kind of uncertainty is harder to deal with than a known bad outcome. In this workshop, we will share our experiences, both positive and negative, in dealing with the stress of our current situation. Susan Owicki will explore strategies to help us maintain our balance when the world around us feels unstable.

Susan Owicki is a Marriage and Family Therapist and a member of the UUCPA Conflict Resolution Team.

Peaceful Presence

On Thursday, May 11, from 7 to 7:30 pm, there will be a prayer service in the Fireside Room. It is designed for those who are suffering at the hands of their own government, those who need a pause in the midst of intensive work on behalf of others, and all who would like to pray with others for the well-being of all. The prayer time will include elements from several religious traditions, and will embrace those of all faith traditions or no defined faith. This will be the first in a series of services called "Peaceful Presence" that will be held on the 11th day of each month in houses of worship in our area.

The South Palo Alto Food Closet

There are baskets in the lobby for food donations to the South Palo Alto Food Closet. It is a grocery program located at the Covenant Presbyterian Church on East Meadow Drive in Palo Alto. This food program is designed to help needy families with children or disabilities by assisting them in their weekly food needs.

We only collect the donations in the baskets when they are full. Therefore we ask that you contribute only non-perishable food so this excludes bread which can get moldy. Cold breakfast cereals are much appreciated. And canned goods such as Vienna sausage, spam, tuna, sardines and salmon. All donations must be unopened and in-date. Thanks for helping those in need in our area.

Exploring Mind, Hands, Spirit and Heart Through Art

June 4*

1 to 3 pm; Room 4/5

Presenter is Amy Zucker Morgenstern

Contact is Amy Zucker Morgenstern (parishmin@uucpa.org)

Devote two hours to simple and profound art exercises with Amy, who is just back from a sabbatical spent making art and developing this program. If you think you have no artistic talent, you will be amazed by what you can do. Each session stands alone, but they also build on each other, so you're strongly encouraged to come to all five. Bringing a small sketchbook is a good idea; all materials are provided. For youth and adults; if you have a child you think would be interested, talk with Amy.

*The May 7 session listed earlier has been cancelled.

A Conversation On The Civic Mission Of Our Schools

Sunday, Apr 30; 12:30 to 2 pm; Fireside Room

Presenter: Diane Hart

Contact: Marilyn Austin (marilyn_a@uucpa.org)

The 2016 election has raised questions about the level of civic knowledge of, and commitment to, our democratic system of government among the American electorate. The signs are everywhere. A recent poll tells us that only a third of Americans are able to name just one of the three branches of the federal government. More worrying, a quarter of US millennials dismiss the importance of free elections in a democracy. And a near majority of voters long for a leader who "is willing to break some rules" if that's what it takes to set things right. We will explore what has happened to civic education in our schools, and why, in a conversation with social studies writer Diane Hart. Diane Hart is a nationally recognized author, curriculum developer, and assessment consultant. She has authored or coauthored 15 textbooks on U.S. history, world history, geography, American government, and economics, which are in widespread use in elementary, middle, and high schools across the country. She also authored the first civics and government text for Palau, a newly emerging nation in the South Pacific. She has worked closely with the National Council for the Social Studies and other civic education organizations to reinvigorate and renew our country's commitment to the civic mission of schools.

Steward of the Month

Honorees now appear on a bulletin board
next to Room 2/3. Check it out!

Benefit for UUCPA:

Spectacular Murals of the Mission: Street Art Tour in San Francisco

Monday, May 29 (Memorial Day), 11 AM - 2 PM

San Francisco's Mission District is famous for its murals and other street art, and SF resident and public-art aficionado Amy Zucker Morgenstern will be your docent in this living museum, making use of her major in art (and they said it wasn't practical!). We'll put on our most comfortable shoes, meet at a terrific taqueria in the heart of the Mission for lunch, then take an hour-long walking tour, ending up at a delicious bakery for dessert; the meals, like the art and good company, are included in the package. We'll begin and end near a BART station if you'd prefer public transportation, or there's easy parking nearby. The tour covers 1.5 miles, and is flat and entirely wheelchair/scooter accessible. Cost: \$30 each to benefit the church (one scholarship available, so talk to Amy privately if cost is an issue). To be one of the nine participants, call the church office to sign up.

Hey Little Ones!

Nature Camp 2017 Is Just Around The Corner!



Get your parents to sign you up NOW for:

- Half day camp, 9 am to 1 pm
- June 12 to 16, children completing grades K-1
- Young Fives or Transitional Kindergarten

We believe humans can have a positive impact on each other, and on the natural world; this starts with immersion in the beauty of the Natural Environment at a young age. UUCPA's Nature camp is a wonderful time to connect with Nature and each other – sign up soon, space is limited!

see www.ecojusticecamp.com for more info.

Day Worker Center Of Mountain View

The Center is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and is one of many UUCPA supports.

All workers are registered with the center and many have a long history of reliable and courteous service. The center is located at 113 Escuela Avenue in Mountain View and is open Monday to Saturday, 7 am to 5pm. Phone 650-903-4102.

A staff member will meet with you and help you select a worker with the right skills for your job. More information is available at their web site, <http://www.dayworkercentermv.org/>.

Green@Home to Grid Ready Project

Acterra's Green@Home to Grid Ready Project helps low-income families in East Palo Alto adopt energy efficient practices and participate in a state-funded solar energy program. The region's tight housing market means that the number of residents per household is typically large in this community, and their resulting higher energy use places them in a higher cost tier. Reducing household electricity usage can thus disproportionately increase financial savings. For example, installing solar energy panels can reduce the energy bills of low-income families in East Palo Alto by 60-90%. Acterra's partners in this project include Grid Alternatives, which provides the state-funded solar panels, and Habitat for Humanity, which provides free installations. Acterra's multi-pronged community outreach effort identifies eligible homes and helps homeowners, many of whom have trouble with English, to sign-up.



Singing Our Truth: Unitarian Universalism in Song

Please join the UUCPA Adult Choir as we present "Singing Our Truth: Unitarian Universalism in Song." Saturday, May 6 at 7:30pm; and Sunday, May 7 at 3pm. If you are new to Unitarian Universalism, this will be a journey through some of the major ideas and principles that unite us. If you are already familiar with UU, come hear how our shared values have been expressed beautifully in different ways at different times by different composers/lyricists. This will be a fun, beautiful, and eclectic concert, as we perform everything from classical to folk pieces, and everything in between. And as always, there will be a reception after the concert, with delicious treats made by the choir. Tickets may be purchased in advance from choir members or in the office for \$20; or you can purchase tickets at the door for \$25. All proceeds from the concert will be donated to UUCPA. So, come join us! Share the music, share the values, share the fun!

The Unitarian Universalist Association shall devote its resources to and exercise its corporate powers for religious, educational, and humanitarian purposes. The primary purpose of the Association is to serve the needs of its member congregations, organize new congregations, extend and strengthen Unitarian Universalist institutions, and implement its principles.

Elder Journey

We meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month in Room 6 from 1:30 to 3 pm.

Second Tuesday we focus on telling our personal stories, read our favorite poems, or discuss our favorite books. Fourth Tuesday generally features a visit by one of our ministers and a topic of their choosing.

—Armand Schwartz

Thespians

The Thespians get together to sight-read plays. All UU members, friends, and guests are welcome.

Second Monday: 7 to 10 pm in Room 9

Third Friday: 1:30 to 4:30 pm in Room A

Fourth Tuesday: 7 to 10 pm in Room 9 — *Samuel Thomas Morgan*

The Bulletin

May 7 and 21 are the next two deadlines to submit items you want to see in *the Bulletin*. Send items to Debra Heinz, Office Administrative Assistant, via newsletter@uucpa.org (preferred), or drop off a hard-copy in *the Bulletin* mailbox in the church office.

Church Office

505 East Charleston Rd, Palo Alto, California 94306

Hours: Monday – Friday, 9 am to 2:30 pm; Sunday, 9 am to 1 pm

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